

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the February 4, 2004 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Possible Park Levy
 2. Mini Parks that could be released from park use
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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use requests:
 - A. St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church requesting to use the Weis Park parking lots in connection to their annual "Summerfest" event.
 - B. Hall of Fame Festival requesting permission for balloonists to land on park properties if necessary during the Balloon Fest.
 - C. J. Babe Stearn Center Mitey-Mite Baseball program requesting to use the fields at Weis, Lee, and Harmont Parks for the 2004 season.
2. Union Baptist Church requesting to exchange property with the Park Commission that would effect Mini Park #19 on Cornelia Ave. N.E.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MARCH, 2004

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Tom Ascani, Vice President; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2004 regular meeting as written. A second was made by T. Ascani, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Possible Park Levy - There was some discussion regarding a possible levy. It was noted that the school levy passed so it would not be on the fall ballot.

Mr. Ascani stated to Mayor Creighton that he did not support a levy at this time and thought other ideas should be looked at first.

Mayor Creighton stated that she had nothing against the idea of a levy, but agreed with Mr. Ascani that all ideas should be considered.

The issue remained tabled.

2. Mini Parks that could be released from park use - Per the Board's request, the Director provided them a list along with other information on five mini parks he felt could be considered for release from park purposes. Mr. Black stated he was surprised not to see a property in the Waco area on the list. The Director stated that the property was donated so the City may not get anything out of it, it does not cost the City anything to maintain, and if the City ever wanted to annex in that direction, the property may play into that plan.

Mr. Black stated he wanted to look at each of the properties on the list.

The issue was tabled for further consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use requests:

- A. St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church requesting to use the Weis Park parking lots in connection to their annual "Summerfest" event.
- B. Hall of Fame Festival requesting permission for balloonists to land on park properties if necessary during the Balloon Fest.
- C. J. Babe Stearn Center Mitey-Mite Baseball program requesting to use the fields at Weis, Lee, and Harmont Parks for the 2004 season.

The Board considered the above requests together. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with an insurance requirement. A second was made by T. Ascani, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 2. Union Baptist Church requesting to exchange property with the Park Commission that would effect Mini Park #19 on Cornelia Ave. N.E. - The Director gave the Board pictures and overheads of the area for their consideration. A discussion was held regarding the request. The Director explained that per his conversation with Ms. Joyce Zachary, the church wanted the City to move both the playground and basketball court to lots they would exchange with the City.

The cost of such a move was discussed, and if these lots were purchased using LWCF or HUD funds.

The Board felt that the City could not afford the cost of the current request from the church in moving and rebuilding the park areas; however, they would remain open to further discussions.

The Director was instructed to try and find out how the existing park lots were obtained and to draft a letter to the church for Mr. Black's review stating the Board's position.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director presented the Board with three use requests:

- A. American Cancer Society requesting the use of Stadium and Monument Parks on October 17, 2004, to hold their annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.
- B. Great Trail Council requesting the use of Arboretum Park, June 21 thru June 25, 2004, to hold their annual "Summer Fun Days" activity.

- C. Holly Hills Baseball and Softball Association requesting to use the ball fields at Arboretum and Martindale Parks for the 2004 season, April 1 thru July 15.

The Board considered the above requests together. A motion was then made to approve them with an insurance requirement on uses A and B by A. Black. A second was provided by T. Ascani, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Director informed the Board that Mr. Marzelli had told him about a company that would be interested in harvesting the old trees in the parks. He stated he had talked to the company, and they may even be interested in single trees if the situation would work out right.

There was discussion regarding if there would have to be a bid process or if the trees or a tree could just be sold. It was also discussed if the public would understand a clearing out of old trees with a replanting.

The Director suggested as a first step that he could contact the State of Ohio Division of Forestry and see if they would look at the area to tell the Board how many trees could or should come down.

The Board agreed to that and also suggested asking the Law Department about the process necessary to sell the trees in any number.

3. The Director stated that with the new administration has come new areas of City buildings that are now considered as non-smoking. He stated that the Garaux Building and Park Offices have been non-smoking for some time; however the Garden Center ground floor was still a smoking area.

A motion was made by A. Black to revise the smoking policy for the Garden Center to make it a smoke free building. A second was made by T. Ascani, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

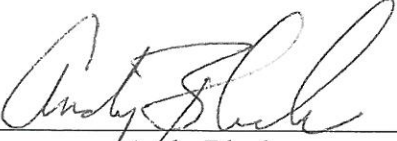
Mr. Boutros, the Garden Center Manager, raised the problem he was having with people using the bathrooms. This led to discussion of the possibility of locking the building or the restrooms to prevent general public's use of the building. The use of the building on weekends was also raised along with the possible changes involved with doing so. Charging for use of picnic shelters was also raised.

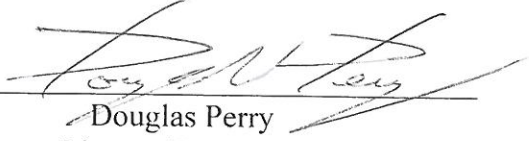
Problems with loss of recreational user immunity, insurance needs, manpower to handle the paperwork and obligation for services at shelters for which a fee is being charged.

The Director and Mr. Black will contact the Law Department to ask some questions and try to put some cost figures for necessary insurance.

4. Mayor Creighton spoke from the floor to tell the Board that she appreciated the fact that the Board allowed the Director to attend Department Head meetings with her staff. She felt it was important in her attempt to foster teamwork and a unified City message.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Andy Black
President

Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary